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News Release 11/4/11

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DANTES Releases Distance Learning Self-Assessment

Pensacola, Fla. - DANTES recently released the Distance Learning Readiness Self-Assessment (DLRSA) tool, created by Dr. Carol Berry, DANTES Director, to help students self-assess their readiness for distance learning.

The DANTES DLRSA was developed after a review of tuition assistance data revealed that more than 70 percent of all military personnel were self-selecting into distance learning (DL) courses and experiencing lower completion rates than comparable face-to-face classes. It is critical that Service members are successful when taking their classes, whether face-to-face or distance learning. Failure can have a negative impact on the Service member and his/her education, as well as the government; both parties have invested time and money into the education process.

While no instrument has proven to predict success in distance learning, having a clear understanding of one's individual circumstances may influence a student's behavior in the pursuit of education goals, and may be the difference between completing and not completing the class. The guidance provided by the DANTES DLRSA offers advice regarding strengths and weaknesses. Knowing these, a student can then take steps address those issues that might interfere with their overall educational success.

While the DANTES DLRSA helps students determine their readiness for DL, it is not intended to deny enrollment in a distance learning course. The student report should inform and help students self-screen their current skills, habits and understanding of DL, thereby helping students to make choices that lead to an overall successful educational experience.

There are several components to this program: the self-assessment; Counselor's Guide; PowerPoint training for staff and counselors, providing background on DL research and theory; and a protocol for implementation. The Counselor Guide provides information about the instrument for education center counselors on how to review and discuss the results with clients. Counselors with a valid DANTES ID number can also request a copy of the guide and training slides.

Anyone can take the DLRSA at the DANTES DL Online Catalogs Web site
www.dantescatalogs.com/.

For more information on DANTES programs and resources, visit
http://www.dantes.doded.mil/DANTES_Homepage.html.

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